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File Amndt. A

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of: )  
 )  
Hickman ) Examiner: Unassigned  
 )  
Serial No: Unassigned ) Group Art Unit: Unassigned  
 )  
Filed: August 7, 2000 )  
 )  
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR )  
ACCESSING A WIDE AREA )  
NETWORK )

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT A**

Box Patent Application  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above identified patent application as follows prior to first examination.

**IN THE DRAWINGS**

Please add Figures 8a, 8b, 9a, 16, 16a, and 17-19. Figures 8a, 8b, 9a, 16, 16a, and 17-19 correlate to Figures 9, 10, 11b, 12, 12a, 13, 14, and 21, respectively of U.S. Patent Application No. 08/847,816, now abandoned, incorporated by reference in its entirety. As such, figures 8a, 8b, 9a, 16, 16a, and 17-19 introduce no new matter.